



Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, CHE
Acting Commissioner of Health

Health Department Administration



Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 North Broadway, 3rd Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3653 phone (414) 286-3521 fax (414) 286-5990
web site: www.milwaukee.gov

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**Media Contact: Raquel Madrid
414-286-3175 Office
414-603-3147 Pager**

New Immunization Requirement for 2004-2005 School Year

Health Department to Hold Two Special Immunization Clinics and Launch New Chickenpox Ad Campaign

The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) Acting Health Commissioner Bevan K. Baker and Mayor Tom Barrett will hold a **press conference on Saturday May 22, 2004 at the Southside Health Center** located at 1639 South 23rd Street to encourage parents to comply with school immunization requirements and to unveil a new chickenpox education campaign. **The chickenpox campaign is an effort to build awareness of the new school requirement for 2004- 2005, in which the chickenpox vaccine will be a required vaccination for all children in Pre-K through 8th grade.** In addition, the campaign aims at drawing attention to the severity of the disease for children; however, it is preventable.

Chickenpox is a highly infectious viral disease. Symptoms include fatigue, fever and an itchy blister-like rash with as many as 250 to 500 lesions. Most cases of chickenpox occur in persons less than 15 years old. About 1 in 10 children infected with chickenpox suffers from complications including dehydration, pneumonia or infections of skin lesions, bone, blood or brain. Children can even die from the disease. Before the vaccine, there were approximately 11,000 hospitalizations and 100 deaths from chickenpox each year in the United States.

MHD will hold two separate immunization clinics on Saturday from 9:00 a.m – 1:00 p.m. at the Southside Health Center 1639 South 23rd Street and Northwest Health Center 7630 West Mill Road. Ronald McDonald will be at the Southside Health Center to greet children and distribute free ice cream coupons. Parents are asked to bring their children's immunization record and medical insurance cards.

What:	Press Conference
When:	Saturday, May 22, 2004
Time:	11:15 a.m.
Where:	Southside Health Center (1639 S. 23 rd Street, Milwaukee)
Speakers:	Mayor Tom Barrett Bevan K. Baker , CHE, Acting Health Commissioner Dan Hopfensperger , State Immunization Program Director William Andrekopoulos , MPS Superintendent Peter Blewett , President, Milwaukee Board of School Directors